

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
USSN: Not yet assigned

Q82272

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A pneumatic radial tire in which a wheel tread part of a tread is divided into a plurality of blocks and is constituted of at least one circumferential groove formed in a circumferential direction and a plurality of traverse grooves formed at proper intervals in a width direction so as to intersect the circumferential groove,

characterized in that each of the plurality of blocks is provided with at least one sipe which intersects the circumferential direction, and is formed so that block rigidity can be higher in an end of a center side region compared with that in an end of a shoulder side region.

2. (original): A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1, characterized in that: the circumferential groove is constituted by including a longitudinal main groove formed in the circumferential direction via a center of the width direction, and a pair of longitudinal subgrooves disposed by at least one on each of both sides of the longitudinal main groove, and at least four rows of the plurality of blocks are disposed along the main and subgrooves.

3. (original): A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that:

a block section along the sipe is formed so that a cut depth of the end of the center side region can be shallower compared with that of the end of the shoulder side region.

USSN: Not yet assigned

4. (original): A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that:

a block section along the sipe is formed so that a cut area of the end of the center side region can be smaller compared with that of the end of the shoulder side region.

5. (currently amended): A pneumatic radial tire according to ~~one of claims 1, 2, and 4~~ claim 1 or 2, characterized in that:

on the block section along the sipe, a ratio between a sipe sectional area S2 of the shoulder side region and a sipe sectional area S1 of the center side region is as follows:

$$1.4 \leq S2/S1 \leq 2.0$$

6. (currently amended): A pneumatic radial tire according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 or 2, characterized in that:

the sipe is constituted of a one-end-open sipe formed by opening the shoulder side of the block and terminating the center side in the block.

7. (original): A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 6, characterized in that:
a width of an unopened part of the end of the center side region is 5 to 15% of a block width.

8. (currently amended): A pneumatic radial tire according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~
claim 1 or 2, characterized in that:

the sipe is constituted of a both-end-open sipe formed by opening both ends of the
shoulder and center sides of the block.

9. (original): A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 8, characterized in that:
the both-end-open sipe is formed by including an end of the center side region having a
width of 5 to 40% of the block width and a shallow cut depth .